

Message

From: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6E06B0D240D84CA59788C6C431758DE2-WAHLSTROM-R]
Sent: 11/26/2019 8:42:37 PM
To: R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov
Subject: FW: Velella Epsilon net-pen aquaculture pilot project (FLOA00001).

Meghan Wahlstrom | Environmental Engineer | Permitting & Grants Branch | Water Division
Special Emphasis Program Manager for the Federal Women's Employment Program (FWP)
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From: Clifford Goudey [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:18 PM
To: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan <Wahlstrom-Ramler.Meghan@epa.gov>
Subject: Velella Epsilon net-pen aquaculture pilot project (FLOA00001).

US EPA – WD/PGB
ATTN: Meghan Wahlstrom
61 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Attn: Meghan Wahlstrom

I am writing in support of the Velella Epsilon project. I see it as a logical and necessary step towards the development of a robust offshore aquaculture sector. Unlike its near-shore counterpart, where the introduction of discharges from a fish farm in combination with already high near-shore nutrient levels can easily overwhelm the ecosystem, locating offshore in deeper water and in more energetic currents and waves, the surrounding ecosystem is not put at risk. Indeed, research has shown that such facilities when properly sited and operated can be a net benefit to the ecosystem (1).

The proposed farm system is novel and will generate much needed knowledge on the cultured species and on how to achieve sustainable operations. The EA is very thorough and the proposed monitoring plans are extensive and more than sufficient for determining the impacts of the operation, both positive and negative. Advancements in this food-production sector are needed if the U.S. is to achieve food security and benefit fully from our offshore waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Clifford A. Goudey
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21 Marlboro Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

1. Alsrn, D.E. 2005. Environmental and Social Impact of Sustainable Offshore Cage Culture Production in Puerto Rican Waters. Final report to

NOAA Federal Contract Number: NA16RG1611. <https://mafiadoc.com/environmental-and-social-impact-of-sustainable-offshore-cage-5b6fcb2a097c47e81b8b4606.html>